

REMARKS

In an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. and filed September 9, 2004, Applicants proposed amending the claims to place the application in condition for allowance without further arguments. In particular, Applicants asked for changes to Claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 14, 16, 24, 28, 34, 35, 38 and 41.

In an Advisory Action dated November 2, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the Amendment did not completely place the application in condition for allowance, and thus would not be entered. The Examiner also indicated that the Amendment would be entered if several additional minor changes were made to the claims.

This opportunity is being taken to make those additional, minor changes. More specifically, in the present Amendment, Applicants are making all the changes presented in the unentered Amendment of September 9, 2004, and the following additional changes:

Claim 3, line 3, "signature" is being replaced with "signature key";

Claim 5 is being amended to be dependent from Claim 1;

Claim 11 is being amended to be dependent from Claim 1, and in line 2 of Claim 11, "key" is being added after "signature";

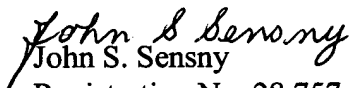
Claims 20, 37 and 40 are being amended to be dependent, respectively, from Claims 16, 35 and 38;

Claim 43, line 4, "signature" is being replaced with "signature key".

For the reasons advanced in the September 9, 2004 Amendment and in light of the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment. Moreover, these changes to the claims overcome the rejections of Claims 1, 3-7, 11-14, 16-22, 25-29, 35, 37, 38 and 41-43 under 35 U.S.C. 103, and the Examiner is thus asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejections of and to allow these claims.

Every effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance, a notice of which is requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is asked to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


John S. Sensny
Registration No. 28,757
Attorney for Applicants

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER
400 Garden City Plaza – Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

JSS:jy